What is claimed is:

1. 1. A method of providing role-specific views of an aggregated service in a computing

2. network, the aggregated service comprising one or more software resources, the method

3. comprising steps of:

4. providing a role-specific portlet for each role supported by a particular one of the one or

5. more software resources;

6. providing linkage between the role-specific portlets and the roles for the particular one of

7. the software resources;

8. repeating the providing steps for each of the one or more software resources;

9. obtaining, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated service; and

10. using the obtained role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the role-specific

11. portlets for each of the software resources, thereby providing the role-specific view of the

12. aggregated service.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of rendering the selected

role-specific view for the user.

1. 3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the using step further comprises steps of:

2. determining which of the one or more software resources should be invoked to position

3. the user's entry point into the aggregated service; and

4. using the obtained role to programmatically select a role-specific view of the determined

5. software resource.

1   4.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the user role is stored in a user profile

2   associated with the user.

1   5.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the user role is determined using the user's

2   identification and credentials.

1   6.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein user role information is programmatically

2   relayed among distributed services performed by the software resources of the aggregated service.

7.   The method according to Claim 6, wherein the programmatic relaying comprises sending a

message which specifies the user role in a header of the message and in which a body of the

message identifies that this message is delivering the user role.

8.   The method according to Claim 7, wherein the message is a SOAP ("Simple Object

Access Protocol") message.

1   9.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the linkage uses XML Linking language

2   ("XLink") syntax.

1   10.   The method according to Claim 1, wherein the linkage is stored in a portlet archive

2   ("PAR") file.

3   11.   A system for providing role-specific views of an aggregated service in a computing

4   network, the aggregated service comprising one or more software resources, the system

5   comprising:

6   means for providing a role-specific portlet for each role supported by a particular one of

7   the one or more software resources;

8   means for providing linkage between the role-specific portlets and the roles for the

9   particular one of the software resources;

10   means for repeating, for each of the one or more software resources, operation of the

11   means for providing;

12   means for obtaining, at run time, a user role corresponding to a user of the aggregated

13   service; and

14   means for using the obtained role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the

15   role-specific portlets for each of the software resources, thereby providing the role-specific view

16   of the particular software resource.

     12.   A computer program product for providing role-specific views of an aggregated service in

2   a computing network, the aggregated service comprising one or more software resources, the

3   computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4   computer-readable program code means for providing a role-specific portlet for each role

5   supported by a particular one of the one or more software resources;

6   computer-readable program code means for providing linkage between the role-specific

7   portlets and the roles for the particular one of the software resources;

8   computer-readable program code repeating, for each of the one or more software

9   resources, operation of the computer-readable program code means for providing;

10   computer-readable program code means for obtaining, at run time, a user role

11   corresponding to a user of the aggregated service; and

12   computer-readable program code means for using the obtained role to programmatically

13   select a corresponding one of the role-specific portlets for each of the software resources, thereby

14   providing the role-specific view of the aggregated service.

1   13.   A method of providing role-specific views from a business web content aggregation

2   framework, the method comprising steps of:

3   aggregating components from one or more content aggregation frameworks;

4   providing a role-specific version of at least one of the aggregated components, for each

5   role supported by the at least one aggregated component;

6   providing linkage between the role-specific versions and the supported roles;

7   determining a user role corresponding to a current user of the aggregated components;

8   using the determined user role to programmatically select a corresponding one of the role-

9   specific versions of the at least one aggregated component; and

10   rendering the programmatically-selected version of the at least one aggregated component,

11   thereby providing the role-specific view.